

I am opposed to any relaxing of the current ownership rules. Our democracy depends on a free and unfettered media. There is a "public trust" to be protected. Already there is too much concentration of ownership, sure there are all those channels (if you can afford cable) but even they are controlled by a very few corporate owners. In my market, where Gannett owns both the newspaper and the NBC affiliate there has been only three mentions of this issue, one short notice about a public hearing in Seattle and an editorial by the staff in support of the rules change and one by a citizen in opposition. Not one factual news report. Recently, the Benton foundation sponsored a public forum on this issue Commissioner Copps was in attendance, but not one representative from any local media company attended nor was there any news coverage of the event. How can this lack of coverage not be related to the fact that media owners will profit from the rules change?

It is a sad day in America when citizens have to seek information from other countries to get a balanced report on what's going on in the USA.